

Summer Immersion

Q: What is Summer Immersion?

A: Summer Immersion is the first meeting of the incoming PEL class. It is a week-long introduction to weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and WMD-related policy issues. During Summer Immersion we will visit and hear from policymakers who work on WMD issues, including those at the State Department, Pentagon, and National Security Staff. Finally, Summer Immersion is a chance to get to know your fellow PEL members and begin to form the relationships that we hope to foster as part of this program to bring together the next generation of emerging leaders.

Q: Who attends Summer Immersion?

A: All members of an incoming PEL class attend Summer Immersion. In addition PEL senior mentors join the new members throughout the week. They are on hand to answer questions and impart wisdom based on their years of government service related to WMD.

Q: What will I learn from Summer Immersion?

A: At the end of the week, you will have a sense of the breadth of issues related to WMD and the offices and departments which address them. You will have met and gotten to spend time with your fellow members, making connections we hope you will begin to rely on in your work. You will have met and heard from the program's senior mentors and begun to understand the resource they represent.

Q: What should I wear?

A: If you are a civilian, please wear business attire. If you are in the military, please wear your Class B uniform. For those who get cold easily, please remember that air conditioning may be up full blast in some places, so dress accordingly.

Q: Why did you ask me to send a short bio before Summer Immersion?

A: Summer Immersion is the first time you will meet your PEL class and we want you to get to start getting to know each other during the course of the week's activities. We hope that getting a chance to read short bios of each other will facilitate this process.

Q: I want to apply for PEL, but I have a scheduling conflict the first two days of Summer Immersion. If I were selected, would there be any leeway? Could I miss one or two days of Summer Immersion?

A: Summer Immersion is packed full of interesting meetings that we want you to attend. In addition it is the first time your class will be together, so it's a chance to meet and get to know your fellow members. Based on these two reasons, you will not be excused from any days of Summer Immersion. If you have a scheduling conflict, you will need to defer to the following year's class.